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*German World Policies.* By PAUL ROHRBACH. Translated by EDMUND VON MACH. New York: Macmillan, 1915. 8vo, pp. 243. \$1.25.

This is a translation, only slightly abridged, of *Der deutsche Gedanke in der Welt*, published in 1912. It affords a significant insight into the German ideals and character and gives an estimate of British achievements and aspirations more just and unbiased than most that have proceeded from German sources since the war began.

The book is an exhortation to Germans to unite in spreading the German idea throughout the world, particularly in Turkey, Africa, and China, so as to make impossible the domination of the Anglo-Saxon type in those regions still in the process of development. The conquest should be a moral one based upon foundations of economic and political strength. The author claims that England seeks to crush the German empire and construes British naval preparations as a policy of aggression. But "the policy of the German idea does not contemplate any violence."

It is easy to criticize this book in the light of subsequent events. It is very doubtful if spiritual influences can be disseminated except by spiritual forces; the intellectual or moral contributions of a civilization cannot be spread, as Bernhardt says, "under the aegis of political power." The author's references to Turkish political and military vigor have not been borne out by subsequent history. The statement that "Russia has even lost the ability to undertake extensive political or military activity in Europe" is refuted by the witness of the present movements under the Grand Duke Nicholas. Certainly the events that took place on the eve of this great war do not seem to lay the responsibility on the shoulders of Great Britain.

Herr Rohrbach advocates German political expansion and yet he says, "The German is capable of truly great achievements only in the form of individual genius or when he has to submit to severe discipline in company with hordes of others. The free communion of work done by people who voluntarily organize for this purpose is not characteristic of the Germans." These words, if pushed to the logical conclusion, would seem to point to the unfitness of Germany to found a colonial empire.

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*A History of Social Legislation in Iowa.* By JOHN E. BRIGGS. Iowa Social History Series. Iowa City, Iowa: The State Historical Society, 1915. 8vo, pp. xiv+444.

This volume is a thorough presentation of Iowa legislation for the control and promotion of social welfare. The author defines social legislation as "those protective measures, the object of which is to effect certain changes in the conditions of human life," and which, in the words of Professor James, seek to secure for each individual "a standard of living, and such a share in the values of civilization as shall make possible a full moral life." The field of

social legislation, according to Mr. Briggs, is divided into two parts—that which affects particular classes of society and that which affects society in general.

The opening chapter in the book gives a brief historical account of social legislation in England; succeeding chapters give with considerable detail Iowa legislation in the codes of 1851, 1860, 1873, and 1897. The body of the book is occupied by a discussion of the state's social legislation since 1897, and considers institutions, the care of defectives, dependents, and delinquents, pensioners, and laborers, the latter with particular reference to the Workmen's Compensation act of 1913, the Child Labor law of 1906, and the Compulsory School act of 1902. There is also a discussion of public-health measures as regards vital statistics, contagion, pure food and drugs, sanitation, and hospitals; public safety, as regards fire protection, road rules, use of explosives, etc.; public morals and domestic relations. The notes and references supplied are ample and well arranged.

Judging by the enumeration and discussion of laws for social welfare, Iowa is a very fortunate state in this particular. However, with this mere enumeration we are not satisfied. We are primarily interested in, first, the enforcement of these laws, and, secondly, their effect. Mr. Briggs, however, has neglected to touch upon these aspects of his subject. Had he done so the book would carry more weight, for it is only through the experience of states with social legislation that wisdom for the future will come.

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*Income.* By SCOTT NEARING. New York: Macmillan, 1915. 8vo, pp. xxvii+238. \$1.25.

In his latest work, Professor Nearing publishes a study of the actual incomes of the wage-earners of the United States, as shown from such official reports as can be had on the subject. The tables used, which include federal and state statistics and public service returns, are incorporated in the book as appendixes.

The author takes the position that income is logically divided into two classes—that obtained as a result of the ownership of property and that which comes from expenditure of human energy. According to his calculations, the wage-earner does not obtain the full share of value which he adds to a product. He deduces from his statistics that the greater proportion of the value added to the product in the course of manufacture goes, not to the man who furnishes the energy that brings about the change in the character of the article, but to the one who controls the capital behind the business.

This condition, according to Mr. Nearing, forces the great majority of American wage-earners to a level of existence below what has been found to be a standard of decent living. Our workers are, as a class, underpaid. Because of this, their efficiency and the efficiency of their children is impaired; so that not only the actual scarcity of high-class positions, but also lack of efficiency and inability to obtain training keeps low-paid workers and their descendants from bettering their condition.